

#BXNFMXY  
#00002915#  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620  
CARRIER ROUTE 39  
005-DTM 6-26

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 26, 1997

VOL. 121

No. 21

## 'Miracle' missionary at home with family

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Wade Watts has come home to his wife Nancy and their two sons, Marcus and Joshua, after 15 months in hospitals.

In February 1996 the family was injured in a car wreck on a mountainous road in Peru, where they had served as International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries since 1986.

Wade and Marcus suffered severe brain injuries and lingered in comas. Doctors were at first uncertain the pair would even live, then offered little hope they would come out of their comas.

By November 1996, however, Marcus had made a miraculous recovery. Now 10, he successfully completed his fourth-grade year in a Memphis school and has even been released from physical therapy.

And in May, Wade Watts was released from a rehabilitation center after dramatic improvements in his physical condition.

Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, provided medical care for the family during their long recovery.

"A few weeks ago, we were hoping Wade would be able to move just one finger so he would be able to control an electric wheelchair," said Travis



HOME SWEET HOME — International Mission Board missionary Wade Watts plays with his son, Joshua, in their new Memphis home. Watts came home in May after spending 15 months in hospitals following a car wreck on a mountainous road in Peru. He and his wife Nancy had served as missionaries there since 1986. Just over a year ago, Watts lingered in a coma with little brain-wave activity, and doctors offered little hope for recovery. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

White, an IMB physician who has monitored the Watts case. "A computer had been ordered that would speak for him when he blinked his eye."

Now Watts is feeding himself and speaking, White said. The computer order was canceled.

"God has answered our prayers," said Nancy Watts. "We've been praying Wade would be able to speak again so he could witness and preach, and the Lord has given him back his voice. Wade likes to eat, and now he's about to eat us out of house and home!"

Now Watts is using his right hand, enabling him to feed himself and even comb his hair and brush his teeth. He is able to sit up for short periods.

And he has a word for all those who have prayed for him for the past 15 months: "I plan to go back to Peru."

After everything else God has done in the lives of the Watts family, who's going to doubt that?

### New names in the SBC

As a result of the Covenant for a New Century restructuring, some SBC agencies no longer exist; a new agency was born; and existing agencies have changed names.

#### Former Agencies & Names

Home Mission Board  
Radio & Television Comm.  
Brotherhood Commission

Christian Life Commission

Foreign Mission Board

Lottie Moon Christmas  
Offering for Foreign Missions

#### New Agencies & Names

North American Mission  
Board (NAMB)  
(pronounced like "lamb")  
4200 North Point Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30202  
(770) 790-8980

Ethics & Religious Liberty  
Commission  
901 Commerce Street, #550  
Nashville, TN 37203-3696  
(615) 244-2495

International Mission Board  
P. O. Box 6767  
3806 Monument Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23230-0767  
(804) 353-0151

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
for International Missions

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

SBC meets in Dallas

Disney ban approved

Crossover biggest ever

SBC messenger totals

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

Adrian Rogers is re-elected president; Southern Baptist participation in the Baptist Joint Committee for Public Affairs is continued; and the Peace Committee's final report is accepted — all on the first day of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in St. Louis.

#### 20 years ago

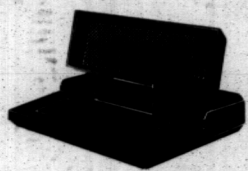
Mississippian Willie Mae Giles is director of the Baptist Center in the Segunda Barrio section of El Paso, Texas. Giles' ministry in this area, known for gang violence is one of nine ministries featured in a new photo-textbook on Christian social ministries produced by the SBC Home Mission Board.

#### 50 years ago

Protestant leaders from various sections of the U. S. meet in Washington for the purpose of forming an organization to seek passage of a constitutional amendment that would prohibit federal and state aid to educational institutions under sectarian control.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE  
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER  
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Beverly Stank

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER  
Debbie Sills

EDITORS EMERITI  
Don McGregor  
Guy Henderson

**Baptist Record** Advisory Committee:  
Billie Buckley, Petal;  
Vickie Ford, Olive Branch;  
Larry Garner, Jackson;  
Bill Hardin, Picayune;  
Dan Howard, Woodville;  
Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula;  
Debbie Sills, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to **The BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800

VOLUME 121 NUMBER 21  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

# Remember our true purpose

**T**he 140th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention is in the books. Messengers packed up June 19 and returned home after an eventful convention — to say the very least.

The Covenant for a New Century restructuring, arguably the most sweeping denominational reorganization ever undertaken by a worldwide religious body, is finally complete. Trustees for the new North American Mission Board, obviously aware of the enormous responsibility they bear to Southern Baptists, urged messengers to join them at the front of the cavernous Dallas Convention Center to pray for the work of the infant agency.

Dozens of young people stormed the convention center for a multimedia announcement of YouthLink 2000, the ambitious program from visionary youth leader Richard Ross of the Baptist Sunday School Board (remember his last endeavor, "True Love Waits"?).

Personal testimonies from the podium were some of the most moving ever heard by this writer, as one new Christian after another told of the influence of Southern Baptists in their salvation experience.

The week was filled with good news about how Southern Baptists, individually and corporately, are seeking to win the world to Christ.

Yet, it seems all anyone wants to talk about is the Disney boycott.

Before hundreds of news people, transmitted instantly around the globe by the truck-mounted satellite uplinks just outside the convention hall, messengers voted

overwhelmingly to begin a boycott of the huge entertainment conglomerate.

It's true that Disney has largely ignored Southern Baptist pleas to clean up its act. It's appropriate that a strong message of protest should be transmitted to the highest ranks of Disney management, which has lately betrayed a disturbing degree of insultation from public opinion.

Whether a corporation-wide, total boycott is the way to deliver that message was vigorously debated on the convention floor, and will undoubtedly be argued in both secular and Southern Baptist news media, including "The Baptist Record."

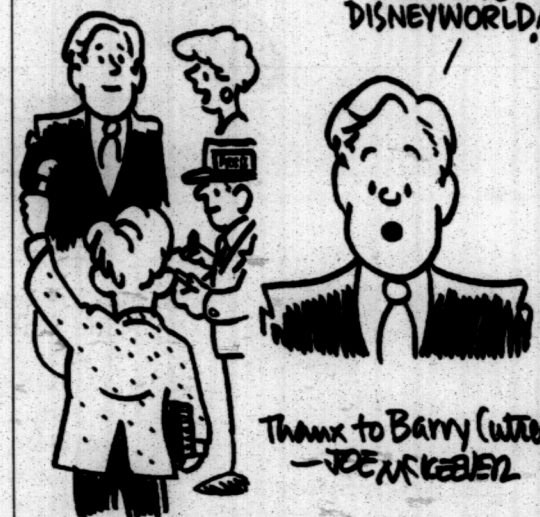
That is as it should be in the world's largest and most diverse Protestant denomination, where grass-roots governance is a part of our heritage.

Of deepest concern should be the potential this issue contains to distract us from our true calling as followers of Christ — to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

It's possible for us to accomplish our most important task (Matt. 28:18-20) and still have a spiritual impact on our modern world (2 Cor. 10:3-4). We can certainly

"DR. TOM ELLIFF—  
YOU'VE JUST BEEN  
RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT  
OF THE SBC! WHAT  
ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO NOW?"

"I'M NOT  
GOING TO  
DISNEYWORLD!"



accomplish both, but we'd best not lose the focus that has guided us for so long.

Instead of arguing over the rightness of the boycott, we should use every opportunity to explain the rightness of Christ. Lost people should hear sweet spirit in our words, and not acrimony in our language.

We have the world's attention. We can use that attention for good or bad. I pray it will be for good.

After all, we're the only Jesus many people will ever see.

## No BR issue on July 3

There will be no "Baptist Record" published on Thursday, July 3. Publication will resume on July 10.

News items to appear in the July 10 issue should arrive in "The Baptist Record" office no later than noon on Thursday, July 3.

Churches which utilize the "special page" feature on page

1 or 12 of "The Baptist Record" should ensure those items arrive in the Jackson offices of Cain Lithographers by noon on Tuesday, July 8.

Because of the newspaper's agreement with the United States Postal Service, "The Baptist Record" publishes only 50 issues a year, taking hiatus the weeks of July 4 and Christmas.

## GUEST OPINION:

### The sweet savor of the Savior

By O. Kendall Moore, member  
Broadmoor Church, Jackson



**A**re you a bar-b-que fan? If so, then the mere mention of the word instantly evokes a reaction in your body and soul.

Pork or beef, ribs or brisket, wet or dry, tomato or vinegar — the variations are endless, but one thing's for sure: you've got a favorite, and you'll do whatever is necessary to protect and promote your choice. It's a spiritual thang.

How do you know you're close to the real thing? You can smell it before you ever see it or hear it or taste it, and that smell usually either attracts or repels. Seldom will it leave you in the middle.

"Citizen Christians" are the same way. Now, stay with me here — I may have a point.

If you take a stand on an issue of cultural significance, be it teen pregnancy, gambling, the homeless, or domestic violence, just to name a few, then you will either attract or repel people.

Most folks have an opinion on your topic, and depending on your approach, they will become either firmly entrenched or slightly more pliable and receptive.

Forget about changing someone's belief in a few minutes. It's a process. The key is to get him to at least question his position and hopefully move a few inches toward yours.

So how do we begin to move people, particularly secular people, toward a Godly world view? How do we come across as a sweet savor instead of an acrid odor? Here are a few thoughts based on Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well (John 4:1-42).

◆ **Go where the people are.** Jesus violated the norm when he encountered this woman. He crossed political, religious, social, gender, and sin barriers in order to

influence her. If we are to be effective, so must we.

◆ **Talk about what they want to talk about.** Jesus asked this woman for a drink of water. He started his conversation on a common topic, and he asked for her help.

◆ **Look for the opportunity to gently turn the conversation to spiritual things.** Note that Jesus never called this woman an adulterer, though

she apparently was. Why? Condemnation would likely have ended this encounter. She didn't need a judge. She needed a loving God, and Jesus showed her one.

◆ **Speak the truth in love.** Jesus told this woman what she needed to hear, and he did it in a way that she could listen without being threatened. "People don't care how much you know until you show how much you care."

◆ **Remain true to the message.** This woman tried to talk about everything, and Jesus consistently brought her back to the issue at hand (her need for the Savior).

Jesus would have enjoyed a good tailgate party. He knew that influencing people for the Father, like good bar-b-que, takes time. He loved people and enjoyed their company. He still does.

Leave a good taste in people's mouths. Remember, the ultimate goal of Christian citizenship is not so much to impact policy, but to impact people with the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Now, how 'bout some ribs?  
Moore is a Jackson attorney. He serves as trustee for the North American Mission Board in Atlanta and the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission in Jackson.

*'Blessed is the nation whose  
God is the Lord'*  
(Psalm 33:12)



Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday  
June 29, 1997

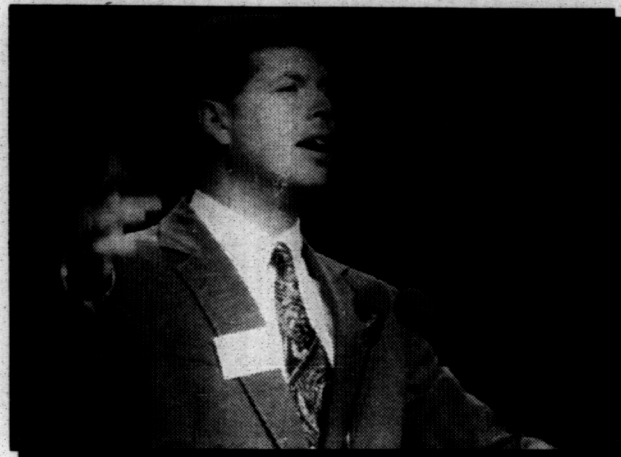
Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention



# Southern Baptists head 'To The Cross'

DALLAS (BP and staff reports) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) headed "To The Cross" with resolve in Dallas.

Messengers to the June 17-19 annual meeting of the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination voted to challenge the moral direction of The Disney Company, one of America's corporate giants, by urging Baptists across the country "to refrain from patronizing" any of Disney's myriad enterprises.



Krumalis

They commissioned their new North American Mission Board (NAMB) to fuel an intensified soul-winning thrust by the 15.7-million-member convention at the outset of the 21st century.

David Raddin, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, and Jackson attorney O. Kendall Moore will serve as NAMB trustees.

With so many U.S. families in crisis, the convention authorized a study of whether its cornerstone statement of beliefs, the Baptist Faith and Message, should hold forth a new, separate article on Bible-based family principles.

Messenger registration totaled 12,418, down from 13,706 last year in New Orleans — and a far cry from the 45,519 who came to Dallas in 1985 in the heat of a moderate-versus-conservative struggle over the convention's theological moorings.

Mississippi churches sent a total of 676 messengers to the proceedings in the Dallas Convention Center — the SBC's 140th session in its 152-year history.

Blake Krumalis, minister of music at Carriage Hills Church in Southaven; and Chris Alsop, minister of music at First Church, Horn Lake, represented the state on the program by each leading congregational singing.

While prompting about 20 minutes of floor debate, the resolution challenging Disney — and "any company that promotes immoral ideologies and practices" — received an overwhelming messenger vote of approval (See page five of this issue.)

Drafted by the Resolutions

Committee, the measure avoided the word "boycott" in following up on a 1996 SBC resolution calling for a boycott if Disney continued its "anti-Christian and anti-family trend" in a number of its subsidiaries' feature films, for example, and in preferential treatment of homosexuals, such as health benefits for homosexual employees' partners.

Among the resolution's opponents: Jim Henry, the SBC's immediate past president and pastor of First Church, Orlando, where Disney World is located.

Disney released a brief written statement June 18 in response to the SBC resolution: "We are proud that the Disney brand creates more family entertainment of every kind than anyone else in the world. We plan to continue our leadership role and, in fact, we will increase production of family entertainment."

In the SBC's restructuring, "Covenant for a New Century," highlighted by a new NAMB, the task force overseeing the implementation concluded its two-year assignment voicing deepened confidence the SBC will "enter the 21st century better equipped and positioned than ever to take the gospel to the world." (See page seven of this issue.)

In an eight-page report to messengers, the 10-member Implementation Task Force (ITF) also reiterated its estimate of a minimum five-year savings of \$34 million to be available for "strategic frontline missions endeavors."

"As we approach the 21st century," Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tenn., said as part of a video report to messengers, "we believe we have an opportunity to accelerate evangelism and church planting as never before by coordinating what we do, when we do it, where we do it and how we do it through the NAMB and in cooperation with state conventions, associations and local churches."

The ITF was created by the SBC Executive Committee after messengers at the 1995 SBC annual meeting approved a paring in the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12, including the merger of the Home Mission Board, Radio and

Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission into NAMB.

The personnel reduction in all affected agencies is roughly 200 — from about 565 formerly to 365 now.

Another key facet of the restructuring involves the new names of International Mission Board for the Foreign Mission Board and Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission for the Christian Life Commission. The '95 convention in Atlanta marked the 150th anniversary of the SBC's founding.

NAMB was officially put into operation with the June 19 conclusion of the SBC annual meeting. NAMB trustees met later in the day to confirm the nomination of Bob Reccord, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., as president of the new agency.

In the family values arena, messengers voted to empower SBC President Elliff to name a committee to consider adding a section on the family to the Baptist Faith and Message, reacting to "a concerted attack upon the family," as one messenger put it. The committee will bring a report to the 1998 annual



Alsop

meeting in Salt Lake City.

In a special ceremony, the presidents of Southern Baptists' six seminaries signed a

covenant with the convention titled, "One Faith, One Task, One Sacred Trust."

"Let the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention know that our seminaries are committed to theological integrity and biblical fidelity," the covenant declares, in addition to its promise of fidelity to the Scriptures.

Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Seminary, said the covenant commits the seminaries to remain "anchored in the Book, lashed to the cross, responsive to the churches and committed to world evangelization."

To undergird the SBC's final push under Bold Mission Thrust — the goal of sharing the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000,

adopted by the SBC in 1976 — Baptists are being urged to fast and pray every Wednesday in 1998 and 1999, ending the day's fast with an evening church fellowship meal.

"Could you imagine what God would do if 40,000 Southern Baptist churches fasted every single Wednesday?"

Roy Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division, asked messengers.

"May God help us to undergird what we're doing with prayer and fasting," Edgemon said, "to commit ourselves totally to the power of God to bring about what we prayed for since 1976 — that every person have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel by the year 2000."



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# Record

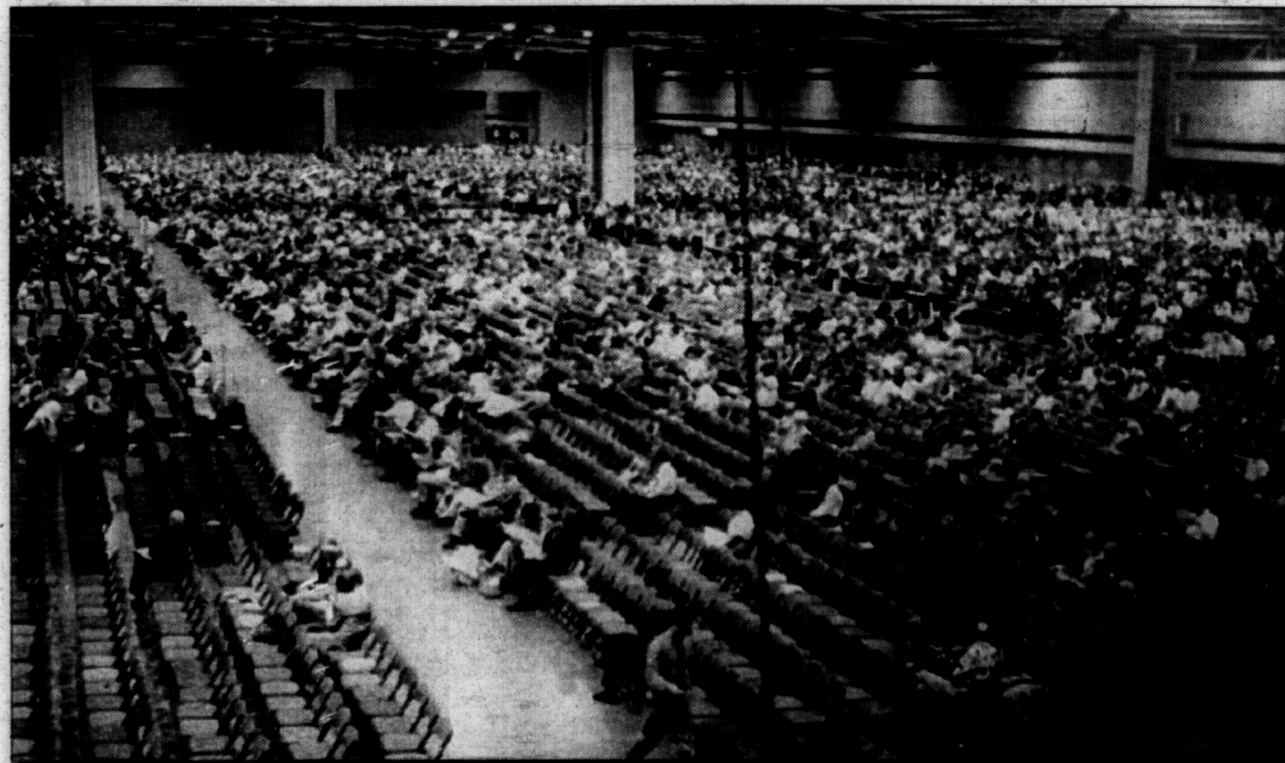
PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 26, 1997

VOL. 121

No. 21

SBC IN DALLAS — More than 12,400 messengers and guests prepare for a session at the 140th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 17-19 in the Dallas Convention Center. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)





# New SS lesson writers begin this week

A trio of new Sunday School lesson writers have been named by "The Baptist Record," beginning with the July 6 lessons on page 11 of this week's issue.

Jason Bird, pastor of 15th Avenue Church, Meridian, will write the Explore the Bible series; Geneva England of Grenada will write the Life and Work series; and Wayne VanHorn, pastor of First Church, Columbia, will write the Family Bible series.

Due to the change from an Oct.-Sept. Sunday School year to a Sept.-Aug. year, these writers will produce lessons for a five-month period instead of the usual three-month period.

Bird came to 15th Avenue Church two years ago from River Hills Church, Salitpa, Ala. He is a graduate of Meridian High School, William Carey College in Hattiesburg, and New



Bird

Orleans Seminary. Bird and his wife Diana, a native of Okla., co-wrote the Centrifuge material used the summer of 1995.

Bird preached for Gulfshore Youth week the past two summers. They have one daughter, Jessica Anne, age two.

Geneva Waits England serves the English Department of Holmes Community College in Goodman as instructor and coordinator. A native of Webster County, she and her husband Archie are members of First Church, Grenada, where he serves as a deacon and she teaches Sunday School. England has been recognized eight times as a Star Teacher; named High School Teacher of the Year by the Mississippi Council of Teachers of English; declared ten times by the Delta Branch of the National League of American



England

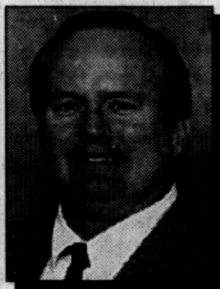
Pen Women to be teacher of the year; and served as chair of the Mississippi Private School Association English Department.

VanHorn received the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary, where he served as an Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew before becoming pastor of First Church, Columbia, in 1993.

He is also a graduate of Christopher Newport College of Newport News, Va.

VanHorn and his wife Terri have three children: Erin Nicole, age 14; Nathan Wayne, age 11; and William Benjamin, age 7. He previously pastored churches in Louisiana and Mississippi.

"The Baptist Record" will not publish on July 3 (see notice on page two of this issue).



VanHorn

## The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

**Admit that you are a sinner.**  
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

**Accept God's love for you.**  
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

**Acknowledge Christ as Lord.**  
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

## SBC restructuring projected to save \$34 million

DALLAS (ABP) — Restructuring the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has cost an estimated \$6 million, members of the SBC Executive Committee were told June 16.

However, that \$6 million price tag could be offset by \$40 million in savings over the next five years for a net savings of \$34 million, according to the 10-member task force that has guided the restructuring.

The Implementation Task Force (ITF) made its final report to the Executive Committee in a special session one day prior to scheduled votes at the SBC annual meeting finalizing the restructuring.

The plan, in process for two years, reduces the number of denominational agencies from 19 to 12 and creates a new domestic missions agency called the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

The bulk of the projected savings was calculated by comparing estimated annual operating costs for NAMB to what it would have cost to keep operating the Home Mission Board (HMB), Brotherhood Commission (BC), and Radio & Television Commission (RTVC) at current levels for the next

five years.

The \$6 million cost of restructuring is based on actual expenditures and expenditures committed for the future.

Most of that total — \$4.3 million — relates to merging the three old agencies into NAMB.

Another \$716,000 relates to dissolving five other entities: the Education Commission, Stewardship Commission, Historical Commission, Southern Baptist Foundation, and Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Seminary.

Another \$970,000 has been paid to consultants and attorneys and to cover printing and travel costs related to restructuring.

The task force reported that 217 denominational employees have lost their jobs due to the restructuring.

The largest numbers were cut at HMB (98), BC (60), and RTVC (30) to form NAMB.

On a percentage basis, BC employees took the hardest hit of the three agencies merged to form NAMB.

Only 19% of the Brotherhood Commission's 74 employees will have jobs with NAMB. That compares to 70%

of RTVC employees and 69% of HMB employees.

NAMB will begin operation with 365 employees, 165 less than the 530 that had been employed by the three merged agencies.

HMB brings by far the most assets to the marriage of the three agencies, with reserves of

\$57 million.

RTVC brings assets of \$1 million but also a \$1.5 million debt.

The task force reported that a contract has been signed for sale of BC headquarters in Memphis. When that \$1.2 million sale is closed, BC will bring about \$1 million into NAMB.

## State CML Conference set for July 25-27 at Gulfshore

The annual Mississippi Church Media Library (CML) Conference will be held at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 25-27 during the "Growing Churches for Tomorrow...Through Bible Study" program. CML directors and workers across the state are urged to get their reservations in now.

Featured at the conference will be Barbara Freese, lead consultant for the church media program at the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville. She will lead workshops entitled:

◆ CML Ministry Concepts. Conferees will gain an understanding of media library ministry and how it contributes to the overall ministry of the church.

◆ Administration — Beyond the Basics. Conferees will learn how to organize and operate a church media library.

◆ CML Promotion Design — Activities. Participants will explore various activities which make the congregation aware of media library resources.

Floyd Simpson, former contract editor of "Church Media Library Magazine" and retired consultant in the BSSB church media program, will lead workshops entitled:

◆ Media Maintenance — Book Repair. Conferees will

gain hands-on experience in repairing books that have been damaged or worn through frequent use.

◆ CML Evangelism Ministry. This conference is designed for those persons who desire an understanding of how media can be used in ministry/evangelism situations.

Floyd is also author of "Great Commission Evangelism: Touching Lives Through Media," which will be the basis of one of Gulfshore workshops.

Church media library workers are urged to make immediate reservations directly with Gulfshore Assembly. For reservation information, contact Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Assembly manager, at (601) 452-7261. Mastercard and Visa credit cards can be used for reservations and bill payment.

For conference information, contact Farrell Blankenship, director of the Broadcast Services Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Simpson

## Nominations committee sets deadline

The Committee on Nominations of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) is soliciting recommendations for individuals to serve on MBC boards and commissions, according to P.J. Scott, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, Olive Branch.

The deadline for submitting recommendations is July 28. A limited number of vacancies will be filled on:

- ◆ Board of Ministerial Education
- ◆ Christian Action Commission
- ◆ Education Commission
- ◆ Historical Commission
- ◆ Baptist Children's Village
- ◆ Miss. Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
- ◆ Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)

- ◆ Blue Mountain College
- ◆ Mississippi College
- ◆ William Carey College
- ◆ Miss. Baptist Convention Board.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Office of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

"The nominating committee will work in conjunction with the heads of institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the 1997 annual meeting of the MBC," Scott said.

The 1997 MBC meeting will be held Oct. 28-29 at First Church, Jackson. Those wishing to serve as messengers should contact their church office.



# Messengers approve Disney boycott call

DALLAS (BP) — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in Dallas took care of some unfinished business June 18.

A year after warning The Disney Company its "anti-Christian and anti-family" direction in product production and corporate policy might bring economic action against the company, messengers voted "to refrain from patronizing" the entertainment giant and any of its subsidiaries.

The resolution, which gained lopsided approval, noted "The Disney Company has not only ignored our concerns, but flagrantly furthered this moral digression in its products and policies."

Lisa Kinney, a messenger from a Largo, Fla., Baptist church, brought many messengers to their feet as she told the convention the resolution "will affirm to the world that we love Jesus more than our entertainment."

She said she had "purchased the toys and watched the movies," but her conversion to Christianity brought her to an understanding that Jesus calls her to a higher level of personal purity.

The resolution, which focused on "moral stewardship," explaining Christians are responsible for the wise use of resources given them by God, sparked some opposition from the floor.

"If we pass this resolution, you have a moral obligation to cancel your ESPN coverage, get rid of the A&E channel, stop watching Lifetime (channel) and never watch ABC," insisted Rick Markham, pastor of Mount Zion Church, Snellville, Ga.

"If we are not willing to do that, we are no more than 20th century Pharisees," Markham continued, calling for Southern Baptists to "get back to winning our world for Jesus Christ."

John Sullivan, chairman of the convention's resolutions committee and executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, told messengers, "There comes a time when you must say enough is enough."

Acknowledging Southern Baptists are unable to do all that is necessary to halt the nation's moral decline, the resolution nonetheless urged Southern Baptists "to take the stewardship of their time, money, and resources so seriously" that they would withhold support of "any company that promotes immoral ideologies and practices."

Adopting a resolution on religious persecution, messengers asked Southern Baptists to prayerfully intercede on behalf of persons around the world who are being persecuted for their faith and to "encourage our government officials to elevate religious liberty concerns to the highest priority in foreign policy."

ity in foreign policy."

The resolution noted American companies and government officials appeared to value "economic gain over religious liberties" in the offending countries.

The plight of the world's hungry was addressed in another resolution accepted by SBC messengers.

Noting Southern Baptists support more 200 hunger ministries worldwide, the resolution underscored the need for "regular and systematic giving" to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Messengers approved a resolution calling for Texas Gov. George W. Bush to call a special legislative session to enact legislation to stem a pending lawsuit that "is causing the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to worthwhile religious and other charitable causes."

The suit, *Richie v. SBC, et al.*, seeks a claimed \$1 billion because of alleged illegalities in issuing charitable gift annuities.

A resolution condemning the late-term abortion technique, partial-birth abortion, adopted by messengers to the 1996 SBC in New Orleans was reaffirmed by this year's Resolutions Committee.

Messengers to the convention submitted 53 resolutions for consideration by the Resolutions Committee.

## What's your opinion?

Some people like it and some don't, but just about everyone has an opinion on the Southern Baptist call to boycott Disney. What's your opinion? The readers of "The Baptist Record" would like to know, so the newspaper will begin a special column on this subject for readers who can sum up their opinions in 25 words or less. Mail your signed opinion along with your address and telephone number to "The Baptist Record," P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

# Orlando pastor Henry opposes Disney boycott

DALLAS (ABP) — Former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Jim Henry said the SBC's June 18 boycott on Walt Disney Co. sends the wrong message to the world, and he will not support it.

"The world will hear boycott and [think] that we are against homosexuals," Henry said. "We are against the practice of homosexuality, not against people."

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, stood in line to speak against the resolution but was not recognized prior to a motion to cut off debate.

Moments after messengers overwhelmingly adopted the statement, however, Henry told reporters the boycott will have a negative impact on Southern Baptist witness.

"This hurt us last year ... just the idea of a boycott," he said. Hundreds of First Church Orlando's 10,000 members work for Disney, he said.

Last year's resolution, which threatened a Disney boycott this year, damaged the church's influence in the community, he said. "People would say to us, 'You're the Christians who don't want us in your church.'"

Henry acknowledged he is concerned about Disney policies that critics say support homosexuality but said a boycott is the wrong strategy.

He also predicted most of the nation's 16 million Southern Baptists will not join the Disney boycott.

"We should not be removing ourselves from people. We should go to people. The greatest force in the world is the love of Jesus Christ," he said. "Our weapons are not carnal, they are

spiritual. If we are going to bring Disney to its knees, we should get down on our knees first."

Henry said if he had been given a chance to speak during debate, he would have asked how long the boycott would last, who will call it off, and under what conditions.

He also said he is concerned with the inconsistency of targeting just one company without addressing how far it will go.

"We reach thousands for Christ [at First Baptist] through Disney employees — are they supposed to quit their jobs?"

"Our church does the Christmas story at Disney World every year — are we supposed to stop that?"

"We air our service on (Disney-owned) ABC — are we supposed to get off?" Henry asked, noting that he will not renege on the church's contract.

Henry added that if



Southern Baptists were planning to travel to Disneyland or Disney World this summer, he would advise them to still make the trip. "I'd say come on and worship with us while you're here," he said. "Be courteous. Pray before you eat. Don't litter. Be a good witness."

Henry said he is concerned Southern Baptists are only known for what they are against rather than what they stand for.

"We could get so removed that we will not have an impact," Henry said.

ANTI-BOYCOTT — Jim Henry (right), pastor of First Church, Orlando, prepares June 16 to respond to news media questions concerning his opposition to the Southern Baptist boycott of the Disney company. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## HEY EVERYONE!

Did you know...

**Leadership Training is available for you?**

Training is available for any teacher/worker in any organization from Bible Study to Missions

**Church Growth weekends:**

1. July 17-19
2. July 24-26
3. July 31-August 2

it offers something for everyone!

- ✕ training for all church leaders in one weekend
- ✕ youth Bible studies
- ✕ childcare

Time is running out...  
Only 3 weeks left to register!!

Contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly to register  
(601) 452-7261

## Arkansas Bus Sales

Providing Transportation Solutions



Pacer LTD by Goshen  
Coach 15 Passenger,  
Gas or Diesel  
NO CDL Required



SENTRY-30 to 32 Passenger  
Chevy Diesel or 454 Gas  
Freightliner Cummins-Diesel

#1 in Van & Buses

72" Interior Headroom ♦ Electric Passenger Door ♦ No Hump to Crawl over ♦ Low Entry Step—for seniors ♦ Easy Handling—Fun to Drive

**CALL — Arkansas Bus Sales — TODAY**  
4805 FARM LANE RD. PINE BLUFF, AR 71603  
501-879-1500 or 800-822-5307

Check our prices—we'll sell for Less New or Used  
We have a Large Inventory of Used Buses  
All Makes & Models

## VINYL SIDING • NEVER PAINT AGAIN

- ROOM ADDITIONS - NO DOWN PAYMENT - 100% FINANCING
- CARPORTS SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS As Low As
- SUN ROOMS
- PATIOS - DECKS
- LICENSED
- BONDED
- INSURED

TOLL (601) 373-2100  
FREE 1-800-373-0054



\$50 Per Mo.

SENIOR CITIZENS EXTRA DISCOUNT

PAY-less Home Improvements, Inc. • Jackson



# Mississippians help set Crossover record

DALLAS (BP and staff reports) — Everything's bigger in Texas, and Crossover Dallas, the pre-Southern Baptist Convention evangelism thrust, was no exception.



**FACE PAINTING** — Charity Roller (right), 17, a member of Dadeville (Mo.) Baptist Church, paints the face of a young girl during a neighborhood block party held as part of "Crossover Dallas." The three-day evangelistic thrust held prior to the June 17-19 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas also included door-to-door witnessing and other ministries. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

The June 13-15 event included 117 block parties as well as door-to-door evangelism and street evangelism.

S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, Evangelism Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and his wife Jean were involved in a block party

planned by the Ross Avenue Church, an inner city congregation.

Evangelist Homer Martinez served as a translator with Adkins.

"We witnessed to this man at a bus stop three different times," Adkins said.

"I would have given up; I didn't know the language or the culture," he said.

However, Martinez did speak the language and understand the culture, and after three attempts the man accepted Christ.

According to Adkins, the block party is an effective urban strategy for evangelism.

"Our churches could adapt this as an evangelism strategy in Mississippi," he said.

Other Mississippians involved in the Crossover evangelistic effort included Victor Ainsworth of Gulfport and Ronnie and Beverly Cottingham, music evangelists from Agricola.

Crossover, in its ninth year, was planned not only to reach people for Christ but also to demonstrate different kinds of evangelism.

During the three days of

activities, volunteers gave away three tons of chicken and thousands of New Testaments, conducted neighborhood surveys and shared the gospel in church and shopping center parking lots.

More than 3,600 people made professions of faith in Christ — a record for convention-related evangelistic activities.

Two months before Crossover, members of Second Church, Dallas, began preparing for the event.

"We needed \$1,600 to host our block party," pastor Joe Smith said. "Our church raised \$4,600."

"There's a low-income motel just down the block from here," said Louise Snyder, a member of Second Church and volunteer at the party. "I used to live there, so I know what goes on — lots of drugs and prostitution. Second Baptist helped me get on my feet and now I have the opportunity to tell the people that they don't have to live this way. They have a choice."

"Our church needs this," said Mark Fuqua, pastor of Lancaster's First Church, referring to Crossover. "We have no organized evangelism. This is eye-opening to our people."

Fuqua added block parties will become an annual event and door-to-door evangelism will take place quarterly.

The smell of a charcoal fire drifted around Mary Klee of First Church, O'Fallon, Mo., and a dozen other people circled to pray for a block party June 14 at the Willow Bend Apartments in Dallas.

Willow Bend is one of six missions of Oak View Church in Dallas. The church itself and five of its missions held block parties. Minister of missions Jim Gerlach said such efforts are part of the church's "Jerusalem Project."

"We try to reach out to our own Jerusalem, which is the area within a mile of our church," he explained.

In that diverse area, 18,000 people live. Spanish was spoken freely at Willow Bend; one of the Oak View missions is Korean.

Bible Way Church, south of Dallas, staged a community job fair along with the traditional food, games, and entertainment. "People in our area need jobs," said pastor Willie Ray Smith. "They came for jobs and heard about Jesus."

## Teenagers storm SBC with YouthLink message

DALLAS (BP) — They stormed the stage dressed in white T-shirts and baseball caps. They filled the front of the convention hall and sang "I believe in Jesus."

They were several hundred Southern Baptist youth and they came to the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 17 to present YouthLink 2000, an SBC-wide initiative to evangelize the age group before the end of the millennium.

Amidst pyrotechnics and energetic music, co-chairs of YouthLink 2000, Dean Finley and Richard Ross, said the event is a "once-in-a-thousand-years" party for teenagers and students to gather and welcome the new millennium with hope.

According to Finley and Ross, YouthLink is a coordinated effort of the International Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and the newly organized North American Mission Board.

Its goal is to enrich the youth of America as they congregate in Anaheim, Calif.; Atlanta; Denver; Houston; Philadelphia; St. Louis; and Tampa, Fla., Dec. 29-31, 1999.

"We expect over 150,000 youth to attend. We expect over 1,500 to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior," Ross proclaimed to the SBC audience.

"We expect another 1,500 to respond to pastoral and ministry calls and we expect yet another 1,000 to answer the call to become missionaries."

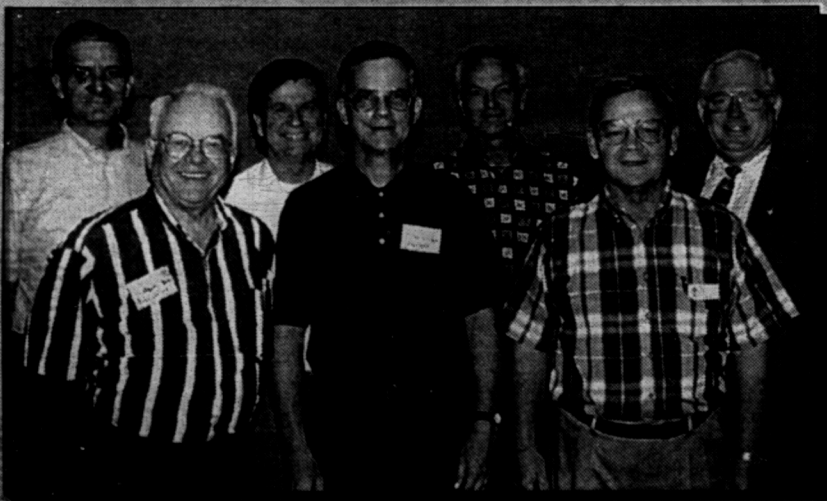
"The seven cities will be connected by satellite and ground link," Finley explained, "so whatever event takes place in one city will take place in every city. The days will be filled with opportunities for worship, theme-related Bible study, ministry, and interactive booths."

Ross added, "This event will not only serve as a catalyst to help Christians once again turn the world upside down, but it will also provide these youth with an accurate vision of what



**LINKING UP** — Young people at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas celebrate the announcement of YouthLink 2000, an ambitious, high-tech plan to provide teenagers with a Christian alternative to ring in the new millennium on Dec. 31, 1999. Their multi-media presentation included an impressive fireworks display inside the Dallas Convention Center. (Photo by Carl M. White)

## Sadler elected DOM officer



The Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions elected new officers prior to the 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. They are: (back row, from left) Ernie Sadler, secretary, Jackson Association, Mississippi; Harry Watson, second vice president, Nevada; Edward Gilman, first vice president, Florida; Dan Walker, host director, Utah; (front row, from left) Charles Nunn, Jr., administrator/treasurer, retired, Virginia; David Dean, president, New York; and Gerald Jeffries, editor, Missouri. (BP photo by Gerald Jeffries)

the entire scope of Baptist life is all about."

Registration for YouthLink 2000 officially began with the presentation.

In the exhibit hall, the first three registrants were all from the state of Missouri. Thirteen-year-old Mandy Wade of First Church, Rolla, registered, along with her father, Bruce Wade, minister of youth who signed up 40 youth from the church.

Jeff Lagsdon from Salem Church in Florissant registered 30 youth and Bob Curtis of Ballwin Church signed up 100.

The co-chairs announced the event accepts reservations at its toll-free phone number, (888) YOUTHLK, and also provides important updated information

at its Internet web page at <http://www.youthlink2000.org>.

"Many of you in this convention hall remember where you were when Kennedy was assassinated."

"Many more remember where you were when the Challenger space shuttle exploded."

"Our youth will remember where they were and what they were doing when 1999 becomes the year 2000," Finley said. "YouthLink 2000 is the coolest way to spend the turn of the century."

Ross is credited with being the driving force behind the hugely-successful "True Love Waits" youth sexual abstinence program.



# NAMB inaugurated at SBC Dallas meet

DALLAS (ABP) — Five of the top six administrative posts with the newly-inaugurated North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern

Baptist Convention (SBC) were filled June 19.

During the first meeting of NAMB trustees, held at the Dallas Hyatt Regency at the

conclusion of the SBC annual meeting, Robert Reccord was elected president of the newly formed missions agency.

Reccord has been pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va. He also was chairman of the implementation task force that spent two years creating NAMB.

Soon after his election June 19, Reccord nominated and the trustee board approved men to fill four of five vice president positions. They are:

◆ Nate Adams, vice president for media and missions education. Adams has been vice president of operations for Christianity Today Inc., based in Chicago.

◆ Richard Harris, vice president for church planting. Harris, a Kentucky native, has been director of mass evangelism with the Home Mission Board, one of three agencies merged to form NAMB.

◆ Mike Day, vice president for strategic planning and mobilization. Day has been executive vice president of the Brotherhood Commission, another of the three agencies

merged to form NAMB.

◆ Ernest Kelly, vice president for business services. Kelly has been vice president and chief financial officer at the HMB. From Jan. 1-June 19, he served as the HMB's interim president.

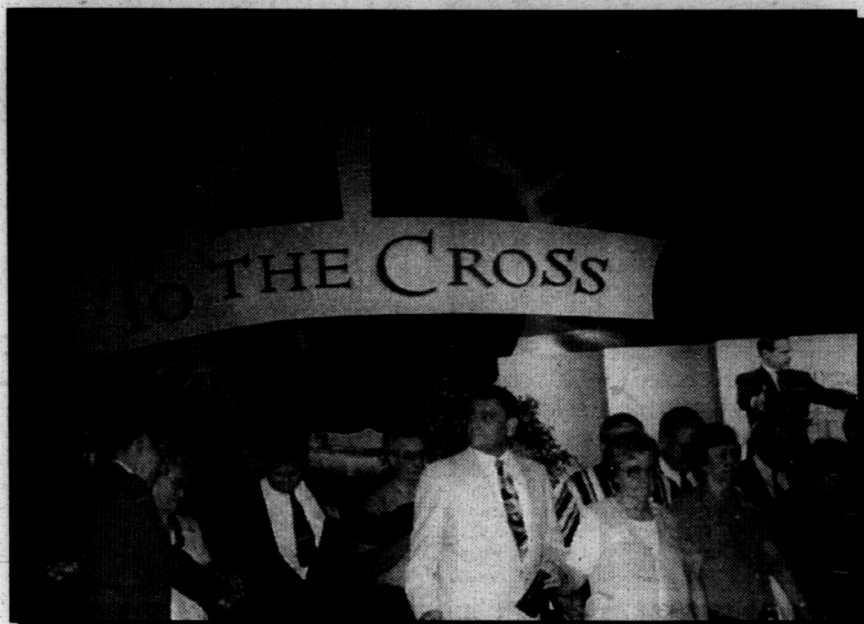
A vice president for NAMB's evangelization group has not yet been named.

Only one of the presidents of the three former Southern Baptist national agencies merged to form NAMB has a position with the new agency.

Jack Johnson, former president of the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), is a special assistant to the president at NAMB.

Former Home Mission Board (HMB) President Larry Lewis left his post in December to become liaison to Southern Baptists with Mission America 2000, an inter-denominational evangelism effort.

Former Brotherhood Commission President James Williams has become executive director of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship.



SEEKING GOD — David Raddin (third from left) clasps the hand of a fellow trustee of the North American Mission Board as they pray for the mission of the new Southern Baptist entity. Trustees were introduced during the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. (Photo by Carl M. White)

## NAMB trustees begin oversight of new agency

DALLAS (ABP) — In their first-ever meeting, trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) new North American Mission Board (NAMB) enthusiastically elected presidential candidate Robert Reccord but immediately put their own stamp on the agency by amending several key documents prepared for their adoption.

Reccord had been nominated for the post by a seven-person search committee called incorporators.

For nearly two years, Reccord served as chairman of a related group, the implementation task force, charged with working out the details of launching NAMB. He resigned that chairmanship when he became an official candidate for the presidency.

NAMB trustees convened their historic first meeting in the Dallas Hyatt Regency June 19 at the conclusion of the SBC annual meeting. The newly constituted board worked from 1:30-7 p.m. with only two brief breaks.

The meeting included a 90-minute executive session in which trustees elected four vice presidents nominated by Reccord and adopted a salary scale for all employees.

Information about NAMB salaries was not made public.

However, after the meeting trustee chairman Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., said trustees had amended the presidential salary scale downward — "not by a great deal, but downward."

This was accomplished by lowering the upper level of the salary range, he said.

Salary ranges for other NAMB employees were not amended, Fuller said, but all salaries were frozen for one year for evaluation.

For several weeks prior to this first trustee meeting, salary scales developed by the incorporators for NAMB were the subject of intense discussion among some trustees, particularly after the concerns of some trustees were published in news reports.

Some trustees believed the pay scales had been set too high, and they were concerned that they did not have opportunity to help set pay levels they would have to defend.

NAMB trustees had been asked to affirm a pay range of \$140,000 to \$210,000 for the president and \$100,000 to \$150,000 for five vice presidents.

Only the president's salary range was reduced, bringing the maximum below \$200,000.

As soon as the NAMB trustee board was constituted June 19, trustees began amending documents prepared for them by the incorporators and implementation task force.

In addition to the salary scale, trustees amended the agenda for the meeting itself as well as the proposed bylaws for the mission board.

Trustee David Stone of Oklahoma offered two amendments to the bylaws before they were adopted, and trustee Anthony Clevenger of Florida offered another. All three were adopted.

The effect of Clevenger's amendment was to ensure that trustees are given adequate notice of meetings.

Taken together, Stone's amendments added three more members to the trustee executive committee — members selected by other board members rather than by the trustee chairman. Some trustees had expressed concern that the executive committee structure as originally proposed concentrated too much power in too few hands.

On a related issue later in the meeting, trustees appealed to Chairman Fuller to consider expanding the number of full board meetings to three per year rather than the two per year proposed in the bylaws.

Also, Stone offered an amendment to the board's committee structure that put more responsibility on subcommittees and the full board rather than the executive committee on certain key issues such as review of missionary appointments and approval of church loans.

Fuller was elected chairman with one vote in opposition. Two vice chairmen were elected without opposition. Gary Underwood of Arkansas was elected first vice chairman. Donley Brown of Missouri was elected second vice chairman.

NAMB trustees had been introduced to Reccord as a presidential candidate several weeks earlier at an informational meeting held in Atlanta.

Before voting on his nomination at the June 19 meeting, trustees were shown a brief video with images of Reccord at home and church, portions of Reccord's personal testimony and endorsements by several members of his Virginia church.

The video also featured

endorsements of Reccord's nomination by seven religious leaders: evangelist Leighton Ford; televangelist Pat Robertson; Southern Baptist pastors Adrian Rogers, Jack Graham, James Merritt, and Ed Young; and evangelism professor Roy Fish.

Reccord was elected to the post by a show of hands with at least two dissenting votes. He was greeted with a standing ovation after the vote.

Later in the meeting, Reccord's response to trustees was transmitted by live video feed to NAMB employees in Alpharetta, Ga., and Fort Worth, Texas.

"You've got an official job," Reccord told the employees.

## 1997 SBC

Total Messengers: 12,418

Messengers by State:

1. Texas .....2,200
2. Georgia .....1,100
3. N. Carolina .....935
4. Tennessee .....850
5. Alabama .....700
6. Mississippi .....676
7. Florida .....650
8. Oklahoma .....535
9. S. Carolina .....520
10. Arkansas .....500

Source: Baptist Press  
As of 10 a.m. June 19

## Shofner elected to post



Newly elected officers of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists gathered June 17 for a group photo at a park near the Dallas Convention Center. Pictured (from left) are: Paul Newberry, music director, Texas; Mike Osborne, secretary-treasurer, Virginia; Pamela Valle, secretary-treasurer elect, Texas; Ron Herrod, parliamentarian, Tennessee; Jerry Drace, vice-president, Tennessee; Marion Warren, president, Texas; David Shofner, pastor advisor, Calvary Church, Petal (Miss.); and Trevor Thomas, assistant music director, Florida. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

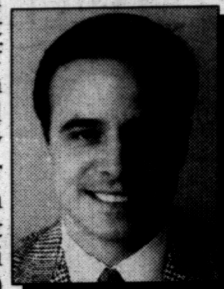


## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Thirteen students from Lamar and Forrest counties participated in the Christian Leadership Conference (CLC) held recently in Lumberton on the Pecan Shadows campus of William Carey College. Pictured (back row, from left) are Trudy Abel, director of CLC; and Caroline Barnes, assistant director of CLC; (middle row) Ryan Parker, Andy Langford, Wade Adison, Sam McAlister, Stephen Taylor, and Andrew Mire, (front row) Blair Lee, Miranda Tebb, Laurie Moore, Amanda Moore, Keisha Stringer, and Victoria Tillman.

Leslie G. Hughes has been named Department Chair of Christian Studies and Philosophy and director of Church Relations at Mississippi College (MC) effective June, 1997. He will continue as assistant professor at MC. A native of Louisville, Ky., Hughes is a graduate of MC, and New Orleans Seminary. He recently completed a seven month interim pastorate at First Church, Brookhaven.



Hughes

Larry Kennedy was recently appointed interim president and chief operating officer at William Carey College. He will continue

with his present duties as vice president of Church Relations and dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies. Kennedy is a graduate of Mississippi State University, New Orleans Seminary, and Louisiana College. He previously served as pastor for 13 years at First Church, Laurel.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Yale Street, Cleveland:** June 28-29; Sat., 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; a ministry team from First Church, Blanchard, La., evangelists; Bubba Talbert, Blanchard, La., music; Jeff Hughes, pastor.

**Bethlehem, Harrisville:** June 29-July 2; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and a singing featuring the Believers Quartet from Poplar Springs Church; 7 p.m. nightly; Robbie Johnson, Goshen Church, evangelist; Rell Webber, Jackson, music; Chris Layton, pastor.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Bible Drill participants, youth and children**, of Silver Creek Church, McComb, pictured (front row, from left) are Megan McGinnis, Emily Garner, Adrienne Garner, Erin Tolar; (middle row) Molly McDonough, Kelly Raborn, Judy Hall, Kimberly Raborn, Cassie McGinnis; (back row) James Hall, Brandon Meyers, Randal McKenzie, and Kayla Barclay. Not pictured, Gail Hall and Carol Garner, directors.

**Enon Church, Grenada**, will celebrate Patriotic Day, June 29, 11 a.m. The speaker will be Lt. Governor Ronnie Musgrove. Other activities include fellowship, at 2 p.m.; picnic, 5:15 p.m.; and 6:15 p.m. service.

**New Fellowship Church, Hickory**, will celebrate its 75th anniversary on July 6. Services will begin at 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds will follow. Woodrow Burt, former pastor, will be the guest speaker. Chris Cochran is interim pastor.

**Terry Road Church, Jackson**, will celebrate its 9th anniversary on June 29. Activities will include a special service for the fifth Sunday to recognize senior adults and dinner will be served at noon. James Netherland and The Pearl Quartet will present a

musical program at 7 p.m. Lonnie Myrick is pastor.

**Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C.**, will sponsor a special Christian wellness seminar, Aug. 25-27. Learn to naturally reverse the effects of adult-onset diabetes and obesity in a three-day seminar by physicians of Weimar Institute's NEWSTART Lifestyle Center. For more information, call 1-800-525-9192.

**Friendship Church, Aberdeen**, will host the youth choir from First Church, Moss Bluff, La., June 27 at 7 p.m. John Bailey directs the youth choir.

## HOMEcomings

**Beulah, Inverness:** June 29; lunch will be served; Tim Frith and The Gospel Echoes from Pearl, guest singers, 1 p.m.

**Gatesville, Crystal Springs:** June 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship, 12:30 p.m.; singing, 1:30 p.m.; John McBride, director of missions, Copiah Association, guest speaker; Millard Mackey, pastor.



Silver Creek Church, McComb Bible Drill participants

**Mt. Zion Church, Simpson County**, will have dedication services on June 29 for its newly remodeled church. Activities include the dedication service in the morning; lunch at noon; and singing in the afternoon by the group, Obadiah. Joel Eavenson is pastor.

**Custom Church Interiors, Inc.**

**PEWS**  
Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering  
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights  
Painting • Baptisries • Steeples  
Complete Renovations

1-800-654-1294  
Jackson, MS 601-957-8844



Available in 20 ft. to 33 ft. models  
(12 to 38 Passenger)

## Church Buses Rental Buses

(New and Used)  
•We buy used buses  
•Guaranteed buy-back program  
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.  
Brentwood, Tenn.  
1-(800)-370-6180  
1-(615)-376-2287

## CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. Only written ads accepted.

**POSITION AVAILABLE:** Northside Baptist Church, Jasper, Alabama is seeking a Christ centered man to serve as Pastor, full-time. Forward resume to Pastor Search Committee, 500 U.S. 78 Bypass, Jasper, AL 35501. Phone 205-384-5331.

**YOUTH OUTINGS?** Paintball-games! Other functions! Curry Creek Outdoors. (601) 722-9000

**WANTED:** Choir risers in good shape or in need of repair, large or small. Contact Kimberly Thompson, First Baptist Church, PO Box 159, Terry, MS 39170 or call (601) 878-5735.

**CFI — PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptisries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

**AIRLINE BAPTIST CHURCH** seeks full-time youth minister. Send Resumes: Airline Baptist Church, 4007 Airline Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111.

**NOTCH ESTATES — BRANSON, MO.** Condo, 1 mile west of Silver Dollar City. 2BR 2BA, sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th free; or 4 nights, 5th

free. Free continental breakfast. \$95 daily. (SPECIAL OFFER) Golden Anniversaries — 4 nights at \$95, 2 free nights plus gift. Other specials available. (601) 746-4632.

**CHOIR ROBES & accessories,** pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS** windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970. Columbus, MS.

**SENIOR ADULT GROUPS NEEDED:** Fall mission trips in Atlanta, Leesburg, New Orleans. Activities include fellowship, mission work, Bible study, sight-seeing. Call Mission Adventures 1-800-299-0385.

**PASSENGER VANS FOR** private and church groups. From \$59.95 per day/limited free miles/7 to 15-seat. Occasionally for sale: quality used vans. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**ALL NIGHT SKATE**  
FRIDAY — JULY 15, 1997  
6PM TO 6AM  
ALL CHRISTIAN MUSIC  
AFTER 11PM!!

SPECIAL RATE FOR GROUPS  
ATTENDING THE BAPTIST YOUTH  
PROGRAM — \$8.00 INCLUDES SKATE  
RENTAL, BY RESERVATION ONLY.

**LAKELAND SKATING  
CENTER**

2929 LAYFAIR DR. FLOWOOD, MS 39208  
601-932-5323 1-800-640-3799



**LOONEY'S**  
Amphitheater & Park

**"The Aftermath and the Legacy"**

**CIVIL WAR DRAMA**

June 12 through August 30, 1997

Thursday • Friday • Saturday (No Show July 4th)

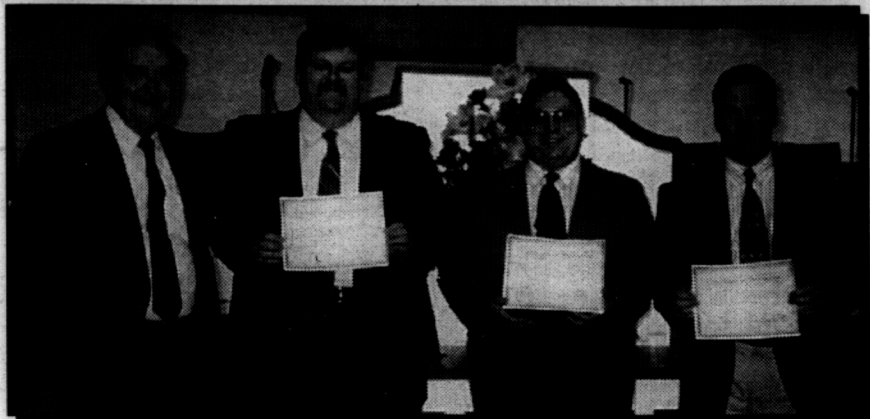
This story follows the principle figures of the historic meeting at Looney's Tavern throughout the conflict and ends with the signing of the peace agreement at Appomattox. It is the story of young love and decisions, to leave home, to escape to the mountain caves, to join the Armies, to fight against neighbor and brother.

Also enjoy: Riverboat Cruises; Indoor Musical Theater; Miniature Golf; Restaurant; Gift Shop; Delicatessen; Country Music Concerts.  
Call for Event Scheduling Information.

(205) 489-5000 P.O. Box 70 • Double Springs, AL 35553  
WWW.BHAM.NET/LOONEYS



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal**, recently held a deacon ordination service. Pictured (from left) are Isom Hill, pastor; Randy Sullivan; Ricky Gill; and Ernest Cawthon.

**Phillip M. Bray**, 53, pastor of Immanuel Church, Pontotoc County, died June 3 at his home in Pontotoc. Services were held June 6 at Immanuel Church with interment in Oak Hill Cemetery. Other churches he served were Kilmichael, Ashland, and Old Union (Lafayette). As a teacher at North Pontotoc Attendance Center, he was sponsor of The Prayer Club. He had recently been selected as Outstanding Teacher of the Year for 1997. Bray was a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary. Survivors include his wife Sandra Johnston Bray, son John-Phillip-Andrew Bray and his father William Ross Bray; all of Pontotoc; his mother Marie Kurzeak and step-father Joe Kurzeak of Heber Springs, Ark.

### LAKEWOOD MEMORIAL PARK

Rev. Rob Robbins is now a Counselor with Lakewood Memorial Park and Funeral Home. For a caring approach to cemetery and funeral planning, call him at 922-2123.

**Mississippian Steven Lee Mayes**, pastor of West Point Church, Jacksonville, Ala., and a recent graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., received the inaugural W. M. Todd Biblical Languages Award at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University. He was also chosen to receive the

Distinguished Student Award in the Master of Divinity program. Mayes is a graduate of William Carey College.

**McAdams Church**, McAdams, recently celebrated the anniversary and birthday of its pastor, **James Young**, with Pastor Appreciation Day. Young was called as pastor in June, 1996. He and his wife Guinevere served as missionaries in Bangladesh for over 25 years.



**James and Guinevere Young**

**West End Church, West Point**, honored its pastor **Terry Parkin** recently upon his earning a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. Shown presenting Partin with his diploma is **Bill Duncan**, director of missions, Clay Association.



**Duncan and Parkin**

## STAFF CHANGES

**Union Church, Picayune**, has recently called **Darren T. Hood** as minister of music and youth. A native of Gadsden, Ala., Hood is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and New Orleans Seminary.



**Hood**

**Terry Road Church, Jackson**, has called **Lonnie**

**Myrick** as pastor effective June 1. His previous place of service was Wiggins Church, Leake Association.

**First Church, Polkville**, has called **Mark Beam** as pastor effective June 1. Beam received his education at New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as associate pastor of Belden Church.

**Thomastown Church, Leake Association**, has called **Rudy French** as pastor effective April 20. He is a native of Canada. French was ordained in Barwick Ontario, Canada, through the Northwoods Southern Baptist Association.

**Center Terrace Church, Canton**, has called **Gene Fant Sr.** as pastor effective June 24. He is a native of Laurel. Fant previously served 22 years with Ivy Memorial Church, Hampton, Va. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

**First Church, Morton**, has

called **Alvin C. Doyle** as pastor effective March 1. A native of New Orleans, Doyle received his education at Southeastern Louisiana University and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Mary served as missionaries in Nigeria from February 1991 to December 1996.



**Doyle**

**First Church, Petal**, has called **J. R. Walley** as minister of music and church growth effective February, 1997. He previously served Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale. Walley is a graduate of William Carey College.



**Walley**



**Brandi Sharpe**, a member of Brooksville Church, Brooksville, participated for the first time in the State Bible Drill in Starkville on April 18. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sharpe.

## VBS DATES

**Gatesville, Crystal Springs:** June 30-July 4; 6-8 p.m.; preschool -12th grade; Fri., picnic and 4th of July cook out.

**Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal:** July 21-25; 6:30-9 p.m.

1997

## GROWING CHURCHES FOR TOMORROW @ GULFSHORE

As easy as 1 2 3 An Exciting New Format That Includes... 3 Great Weekends To Choose From

### ♦ TRAINING PROVIDED FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS ♦

July 17-19 • July 24-26 • July 31-Aug 2

**Bill Hardin**  
FBC, Picayune  
Worship Leader  
July 17-19

**Randy Millwood**  
New Orleans Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
Worship Leader  
July 24-26

**Alan Nix**  
Director of Missions  
Jones Association  
Worship Leader  
July 31-Aug 2

Parents are encouraged to bring their preschoolers, children and youth to Gulfshore. There will be special activities and Bible studies scheduled during the conference times.

For reservation information, contact Frank Simmons, Manager  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street  
Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299  
Telephone: (601) 452-7261 Fax: (601) 452-7263

NOTE: Mastercard and Visa can be used for reservations and payment of bill

Are you paying too much for your Hospital or Medicare Supplement Insurance? If yes, call for our Low Rates Today!

### Major Hospital & Surgical Plan

Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Ambulance. Many Pre-Existing Health Conditions acceptable — High blood pressure, Diabetes, Heart conditions, etc. (Excellent Rates on ages 50+)

### Medicare Supplement

Ages 65 and over. No waiting periods. Low Rates!

Prescription Savers Plan: Save up to 50% on prescription drugs!

### Medicare Supplement under age 65

Call today for free information:

**E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing**

PO Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047

1-800-463-4348



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Taking care of our leaders

I Corinthians 9:1-14

By Greg McBride

The business world understands that a business success depends on qualified people in strategic positions. Any business understands in order to acquire and keep these qualified people it must take care of them with adequate compensation.

Churches too need to understand and employ this principle. The leaders that God gives to the church are the most important human resource they have to successfully achieve their goals. The church, then, has certain responsibilities to these leaders. In his letter to the

church at Corinth, Paul dealt with church responsibilities to spiritual leaders.

**Recognizing the Ministry of Our Leaders (9:1-2).** Evidently some of those in the church at Corinth had questioned Paul's authority as an apostle of Christ. His answer to these accusations contained a tone of disbelief. He gave two reasons in defense. First, he mentioned that he had seen Jesus. This was considered essential for an apostle of Christ. Paul had seen Christ on the road to Damascus, and that fact was well known in



McBride

Corinth. Second, he pointed to the very existence of the Corinthian church. It was because of Paul that the church at Corinth existed. If anyone should know of his apostleship it should be those whom his ministry had led to the Lord.

Too often we, the church, forget that our leaders need affirmation from us. God uses them in our lives in mighty ways, and, yes, God does deserve the glory. However, the reason that leaders continue to lead is that they see God using them in the lives of those they minister to. What can you do to affirm the ministers in your church this Sunday?

**Respecting the Rights of Our Leaders (9:3-6).** Paul went on in his defense to point out that, though he was a leader, he

had rights. He asked, don't I have the right to eat? Can't I have a wife if I so desire? Am I and Barnabas the only ones who cannot expect compensation from the church? You get the idea from these verses that Paul feels the church has treated him unfairly. The church has given no consideration for Paul's personal needs. In his mind he had the same rights they had to the fulfillment of his personal needs.

This danger still exists for the church today. Too often ministers' families are sacrificed on the altar of service to the church. Many pastors are forced to live in conditions in which their church-people would refuse to live. Paul's argument in these verses is that the church should show consideration for their staff members' personal rights.

**Meeting the Needs of Our**

**Leaders (9:7-14).** Paul gave four examples to prove his point that the church should give material support to their spiritual leaders. First was the example of the world. Soldiers, farmers, and shepherds receive material support for their service. Second, the law of God said that it was right. Third, the temple servants shared in the food of the offerings at the temple. Finally, Jesus taught about ministerial support. Though Paul himself refused this right of compensation from the church, he firmly held that the church must pay its ministers adequate, and even abundant, compensation. In your opinion, how adequate is your church's financial support of the staff members? Would you take their job on their salary?

McBride is pastor, Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Be good to one another

Titus 3:1-11

By Paul Blanchard

**Christians are to be law-abiding.** The matter of Christian standards of conduct with regard to pagan society in general is discussed in Titus 3. Paul's instruction to Titus is expressed with the present tense and imperative mood of the verb "remind" and means, "keep reminding them." The choice of this term suggests that Paul may already have taught believers concerning their obligations and standards of behavior within a pagan culture. Christians are to be kind and considerate to all, especially to those whose behavior shows that they have not experienced salvation. We should always be kind and considerate, even to those whose behavior

is ungodly. This can and will motivate us to share the love of Christ with unbelievers rather than be critical. We should avoid pointless, divisive religious discussions.

**Christians are to be kind and understanding.** There is an obvious shift in the discussion from civil authorities to people in general. Christians are to slander no one! The Greek term for "slander" is a term from which the English term "to blaspheme" is derived. Blasphemy is the verbal expression of evil and malicious thoughts directed toward a person who is held in contempt. Christians should be careful not to speak evil of or verbally abuse others, who are created in God's own image and the object of his saving grace



Blanchard

(James 3:9). Christians are to be peaceable (gentle, kind, forbearing). They should be willing to defer to others, although it may require them to relinquish some of their own rights. Finally, Christians are to show true humility toward all men. Christians are to exhibit the same behavior as Jesus in their relationships with rulers and authorities and toward all men.

**Christians are to be thankful.** Identifying himself and all Christians with sinful and degenerate humanity, Paul emphatically asserted, "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived, and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures." Christians, though at one time degenerate and lost, were objects of God's kindness and love to lost individuals and society. Salvation comes from God through Jesus Christ and is based on the grace of God, not on human works. Paul left absolute-

ly no doubt concerning this. Paul stated: "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Neither the works of the law nor righteous things we have done (good moral behavior) will achieve humankind's salvation. Salvation depends solely and completely on God's grace, displayed in his mercy, revealed and achieved by his Son, Jesus Christ.

**Christians are to be actively good.** Paul stresses that those who have trusted in God are to be careful to devote themselves to good works. The terms "these things" in verse 8 refer to everything Paul had emphasized in that chapter and in the first seven verses of chapter 3, namely the way believers should live and act in regard to one another (2:1-15) and before the unbelieving world (3:1-7). Biblically grounded and faithful believers remember their duty to submit to human authority and that God has called them to be his witnesses

before a lost and condemned world. They are to be careful to engage in genuine acts of good deeds that benefit the unsaved and are produced by a loving heart that is empowered to be fruitful by God's Holy Spirit.

**Christians are to be aware.** Not everyone is open to the truth of God's word. Christians are to warn and to avoid unresponsive divisive people. Paul described a false teacher as a divisive person. Paul also used the term divisive to refer to people, within the church, who promote error among believers. Divisions within the church result in believers who are confused, frustrated, angry, and hurt. They become ineffective in ministering to one another and to a lost world. Paul's last words to the quarrelsome, problem-ridden church were, "Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Blanchard is Director of Missions, Winston Association.

## LIFE AND WORK

### Witnessing

Psalms 22:22-31

By Becky Bennett

I have a personalized college license plate on my car. In Mississippi you can financially support the college or university of your choice in this way. In my going from place to place I try to obey all traffic rules and I try to be as courteous as possible. Now that I advertise my support of Blue Mountain College, I am even more conscious of what people may think of me and Blue Mountain College as I drive here and there. As Christians, are we even slightly concerned about what people think of us as we advertise Christ as we come and go?

**Commitment to Witness (22:22-31).** Commitment to anything takes determination. We

must determine to share God's greatness with others. Often Christians want to receive and receive but never give. Paul W. Powell in "The Complete Disciple" states it this way. "Many churches today remind me of a laboring crew trying to gather a harvest while they sit in the tool shed. They go to the tool shed every Sunday and they study bigger and better methods of agriculture, sharpen their hoes, grease their tractors, and then get up and go home. Then they come back that night, study bigger and better methods of agriculture, sharpen their hoes, grease their tractors, and then get up and go home. They do this week in and



Bennett

week out, year in and year out, and nobody ever goes out into the fields to gather in the harvest." Is this a description of you?

Our commitment to witness must have the right motivation. Motivated by a heart overflowing with love and thankfulness, all Christians must make the commitment to declare God's name everywhere we go.

**Reason to Witness (22:24-26).** Make a list of all the things God has done for you. There is no end to the list, is there? God's provision for us goes on and on. He has never failed to hear us and has never floundered in meeting our needs. God does not ignore the suffering and difficulties of his children. We would not hesitate to share if we controlled the greatest treasure on earth, or if we had the means to relieve the suffering of humanity. Why do

we not share the bounty of God? The character of God and the spiritual need of humanity—not our feelings and thoughts—provide the real reason and right motive for witnessing.

**Results of Witness (22:27-29).** The obvious result of witnessing is people coming to know God. Knowing God changes lives. Changed lives have an impact upon others who will in turn come to know God. You see the domino effect already, don't you? The results of our witnessing will be seen for generations to come. The results of Christians ignoring God's command to witness will also be visible for generations.

The great power of God's Word leads to salvation through faith in Christ, creating special people, a community of believers who love one another, exhort one another, and serve God together. We need to be examples of God's power to a watching world.

**Continuation of Witness (22:30-31).** As long as there is breath in our bodies, we are expected to keep sharing with others the love of God. Christians don't retire from being Christians! Some of us seem to think we can retire early.

Aphasia is a loss of the ability to speak, a condition that results when the message from the brain cannot get to the tongue because of an injury or illness. A similar spiritual malady affects many Christians. They know Jesus, but never speak of him. They are familiar with God's plan of salvation, but they never tell it to others. This faulty connection between knowledge and testimony must be corrected. We must keep the message of the gospel flowing to those around us who need to hear it. We can't let spiritual aphasia silence our witness.

Bennett is Dean of Students at Blue Mountain College.



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Winning as many as possible

#### I Corinthians 9:19-11:1

By Jason Bird

Recently, much attention has been given to those who ascend to the top of their profession through single-minded determination and ambition. Olympic athletes, politicians, and businessmen often succeed where others fail because they have a passion for what they desire to achieve.

The apostle Paul likewise focused on a goal. His goal, however, was not fame, fortune, or power. Paul's goal was to reach as many people as possible with the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ. This desire led the great missionary to put the salvation of others above his own comfort. Under the guid-

ance of the Lord, Paul was willing to do whatever was necessary to fit in with various groups — whether Jews or Gentiles — so he might put himself in a position to win them to Christ. In a letter to the church at Corinth, Paul attempted to explain this devotion to winning others to Christ. In doing so, he gives believers today a blueprint for leading others to experience salvation.

**Winning Others Through Relationships (9:19-23).** Paul summed up his relationships with others by stating, "I have become all things to all men..." When Paul tried to win a Jew to Christ, he related to them through their common heritage,



Bird

though he was no longer bound by the rituals and ceremonies of the Jewish religion.

When he was witnessing to a non-Jew, Paul related to them as one who had no understanding of the law of God for the children of Israel, though he quickly points out that he did not disregard God's law in his own behavior.

The key to winning people to Christ is building relationships with them. Believers must seek to find common experiences with the non-believers around them in order to have opportunity to share the gospel. Those common experiences may simply be shared interests or similar backgrounds, but they can be great foundations for building relationships that can take on an eternal significance.

**Winning Others Through Restraint (10:23-30).** Believers

often need discernment to know how to act in a way pleasing to God. Paul knew well the freedom he had in Christ, but he also knew that every freedom had a corresponding responsibility.

As an example, Paul speaks of meat sold in the market that had been sacrificed to idols. Christians were not to participate in idol worship, but once the meat reached the market, it was just like all of the other food there, provided by God for the nourishment of his children. Paul's conscience did not prevent him from eating this meat. However, if this practice was a stumbling block to others, then he was willing to restrain himself for their spiritual benefit. Paul knew nothing was worth hindering another's relationship with God.

Christians today often face the same choices. Believers need to examine their activities not only in light of what suits their own conscience, but in light of the

needs of others. The behavior and actions of Christians should never hinder non-Christians.

**Winning Others Through Glorifying God (10:31-11:1).** When a believer primarily concerns himself with glorifying God, he then will do the things necessary to reach others for Christ. Witnessing naturally overflows from the committed life. That is why Paul said to follow his example as he followed the example of Christ.

Paul focused his life on glorifying God and reaching as many as possible with the gospel. His life reminds us of the devotion God expects of all his children. Believers should concern themselves less with their rights and privileges and more with the spiritual needs of others, doing whatever is necessary to make opportunities to share the gospel. In doing so, God is glorified and people are saved.

*Bird is pastor of 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.*

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### The superior Son

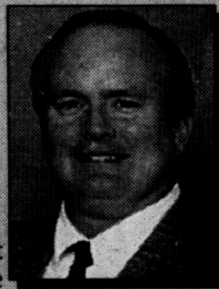
Hebrews 1; 3:1-6

By Wayne VanHorn

**Superior in Revelation (Heb. 1:1-3).** The writer of the Book of Hebrews remains anonymous. We are certain that he was of Jewish heritage since he referred to God speaking to "the fathers" through the prophets. Using his knowledge of Jewish history, he moves quickly to the central point of the entire book, namely, that Jesus is superior in every way to all previous revelations of God. The writer bases Jesus's superiority on several unique qualifications. First, Jesus is the Son of God. Second, Jesus is the heir of all things. Third, Jesus

was the instrument God used to create the world. Fourth, Jesus accurately reflects and imprints the glory and being of God. Fifth, Jesus, and no one else, fulfilled the redemptive plan of God by making purification for sins. Finally, he was accorded the seat of honor at God's right hand. No prophet could make these claims! The writer focused his readers on Jesus as a worthy candidate for their faith and acceptance.

**Superior to Angels (Heb. 1:4-5).** Angels received great respect among early believers. However, the writer underscores his emphasis upon the



VanHorn

superiority of Christ by comparing him to angels in two ways: their names and their relationship to God the Father. The name of Jesus is superior to the names of angels. Notice how few angels are even named in the Bible! In contrast, Jesus' name is the only name given under heaven among men whereby we can be saved, Acts 4:12. Additionally, the writer cites Psalm 2:7 as a messianic reference to Jesus. Similar language is used in Matthew 3:17; 12:18; and 17:5. God addressed Jesus as Son. No other person, prophet, or angel could ever claim as intimate a relationship with God as Jesus! When God spoke to us through his Son, he was giving us his ultimate revelation. No revelation or revelation supersedes Jesus Christ!

**Superior to Moses (Heb.**

**3:1-6).** Moses towers above all other Old Testament personalities as the greatest of God's servants. The foundational revelations of God were given to God's people through Moses. Moses was viewed as the "Great Law Giver." God's Law was referred to as "The Law of Moses." Those who made binding judgments on the people were said to be "sitting in Moses' seat." In order for the writer of Hebrews to demonstrate Jesus' full superiority it was inevitable that he would have to deal with Moses. He compares and contrasts the old covenant of Moses and the new covenant of Christ throughout the book. Both Jesus and Moses were faithful to God, but Jesus's status is higher than Moses'. Moses was a servant in God's house; Jesus was a son over God's house. Moses was part of the house, an analogy of God's people found elsewhere

in the Bible; Jesus was the house builder. In Heb. 3:3 the writer states, "Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of the house has more honor than the house itself." He adds to this that the builder of all things is God, Heb. 3:5. Thus if God builds all things and Jesus is identified as the builder of the house, then the writer of Hebrews accords Jesus a status of equality with God. Moses never attained such high status.

Each of us must consider the superiority of God's Son. We, like Moses become part of God's house when "we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope," Heb. 3:6b. The writer of Hebrews seeks a deeper commitment to Jesus from his readers. This deeper commitment is needed today as well.

*VanHorn is pastor of First Church, Columbia.*

## LIFE AND WORK

### Need of comfort

Psalms 23:1-6

By Geneva England

My "cup runneth over." Does yours? Or do you describe life as a cup "half-empty" rather than "half-filled?" The sweet music of Psalm 23 fills my mind because I claim Jesus as my Savior and Lord, my Good Shepherd, my redeemer, and my comforter. I do need his direction, his comfort every minute, every hour. And I know this beloved prayer offers refreshment to the hungry spirit, rest for the weary, guidance to the faltering, and comfort to the hurting.

Perhaps you think God has abandoned you during a present crisis — a rebellious child, an errant spouse, an overbearing boss, or a personal loss. Your

stomach churns nervously as you work mostly by habit rather than judgment. You know to depend on God through this crisis; you even believe his grace is adequate to see you through, but you trudge ahead half numbed to reason. Often Christians distance themselves from God in times of trouble because they prefer political correctness. They allow the siren sounds of the world to drown out the voice of God, the only sure and true director/comforter for mankind. For the moment the sweet comfort of Psalm 23 is forgotten.

**The Provision (23:1-3).** God's provision compares well to sheep herding, a common



England

Israelite occupation. The shepherd cares for his sheep individually, calling each by name. He leads his herd to fresh pastures and refreshing water; he shelters them from all dangers. Likewise, God, our Great Shepherd, provides all this and more. His infinite wisdom is available to us as we seek his direction through the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, God allows us to choose either his will or man's way. Frequently, the glitz of man's craftiness entices us, just as the serpent deceived Adam and Eve. Too often Christians tread upon the broad road leading to destruction. When we find ourselves in this dilemma, we especially need God's provisions. We must turn to God, the supplier of "our refuge and our strength" (Psalm 46:1). By faith we find rest in his promises so that we "shall not want."

**The Presence (23:4).** Verse 4

addresses two aspects of God's presence: (1) his direct involvement in our lives, and (2) his indirect supervision. Rather than dwelling in the valley of the shadow of death, we live in the shadow of his Almighty care. Hebrews 13:5 states: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Yes, God accompanies us even when we hurt from self-inflicted troubles or conditions beyond our control.

The Psalmist learned not to fear—not even evil—because God is sovereign, as pictured by the rod and staff. God's promise stands: "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them and he delivers them from their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

**The Preparation (23:5).** Our cups overflow because we participate in the abundance of Christ's feast; we are Christ's bride. The food of life and the cup of salvation now belong to us. His provisions are adequate; they supply food and

drink beyond our physical needs, thus our spiritual standing is settled. Even though we may suffer on earth for a season, God sustains us: he anoints us with oil so that some day we will serve him as priest and reign with him as king. What power will then stand against us? NONE!

**The Pursuit (23:6).** Verse six reveals two thoughts of comfort. First, all believers will live forever in the House of the Lord, namely heaven; and, second, this security of eternal salvation lifts our hopes and increases our faith. Jesus shed his blood on the cross in our place so that we will enjoy our heavenly abode with no tears, no sorrow, and no more curses.

Doesn't Psalm 23 delight your soul? Can't your troubled mind find solace and peace by the quiet, still waters in his green pastures? Its words soothe like the Balm of Gilead.

*England is a member of First Church, Grenada.*



# Kid's Page

## MK has no complaints; calls life 'neat'

By Alberta Lindsey  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

KAMPALA, Uganda — Thirteen-year-old Kristen Rice doesn't stop off at McDonald's for a cheeseburger and Coke on her way home from school. But she might raid a termite hill and take a few insects home to fry for a crunchy snack. Another day, it might be grasshoppers.

There are no American fast-food restaurants in this East African country where Kristen lives with her Southern Baptist missionary parents. In her circle of friends and family, she is known as an MK, a Missionary Kid.

Few teenagers in the United States would think of popping a termite or grasshopper into their mouths, but Kristen said they are quite tasty.

"You catch the termites, pull off the wings, put them in a frying pan, stir them around and eat them," she said matter-of-factly.

She likes grasshoppers prepared much the same way. And she eats goat heart and other animal innards considered delicacies in Uganda, she said.

Kristen is a seventh-grader at Heritage International School, a private school in Kampala. "Grasshoppers that are four to five inches long swarm sometimes at school," she said. Our school is not closed up since we use the breeze for cooling.

Termites are my favorites. They are really good. They are salty like a peanut, a little hard and crunchy. We catch them, put them in a bag and bring them home. I like them better than some of the little candies you get, but I can't compare them to cheeseburgers."

Kristen describes her life as neat. She was born and has spent most of her growing-up years in Uganda. Her first visit to the United States came when she was three. She attended third grade in the United States and will do eighth grade there.

"I will do ninth, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades at boarding school in Kenya," she said. "I'm looking forward to it except for the homesickness part."

She will return to the United States for college. She wants to become a missionary veterinarian and care for



AVAILABLE LIGHT — The power supply can be intermittent in Uganda, so much so that families take the frequent outages in stride. On one recent morning when the electricity was off, 13-year-old Kristen Rice got ready for school in Kampala by the light of a backup power system. (Photo by P. Kevin Morley © 1997 Richmond Times-Dispatch — Used with permission)

goats and cows in Africa.

Last month Callie, one of Kristen's two cats, had two kittens under the teenager's bed. Kristen spent lots of time under the bed. She comforted Callie, cleaned up after the kittens were born, and put down a fresh towel for Callie and her babies.

She also had a pet snake given to her by another MK. The snake bit her seven times on her wrist and hand while it was wrapped around her arm.

Kristen's mother, Linda Rice, said she "died a thousand deaths while (Kristen) remained remarkably calm. About three inches of the vein on her wrist puffed and darkened, but that was it. The snake no longer is."

Kristen finds Ugandans

more open and ready to try things than people in the United States, she said.

"The people are very friendly. You can just start a conversation here, and I find I was unable to do that in the States. Everybody is walking here. There are not as many cars."

Kristen has been able to travel widely.

"My favorite trip was to Egypt," she said. "I loved the tombs best in the Valley of the

Kings. There were paintings on the walls. The size of the pyramids were really neat. Egypt was a nice place to go."

Kristen probably knows a child in every country in the world, said her mother as they spread out class pictures from schools Kristen has attended. On the backs of the pictures are countries where the youngsters have lived.

© 1997 Richmond Times-Dispatch — Used with permission.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1997

W PVMT JFO TMZPA,  
JFKJ JFMI KZJ VUWJFUZ  
NMBH VMZ FMJ; W  
TMIBH JFMI TUZJ NMBH  
MZ FMJ.

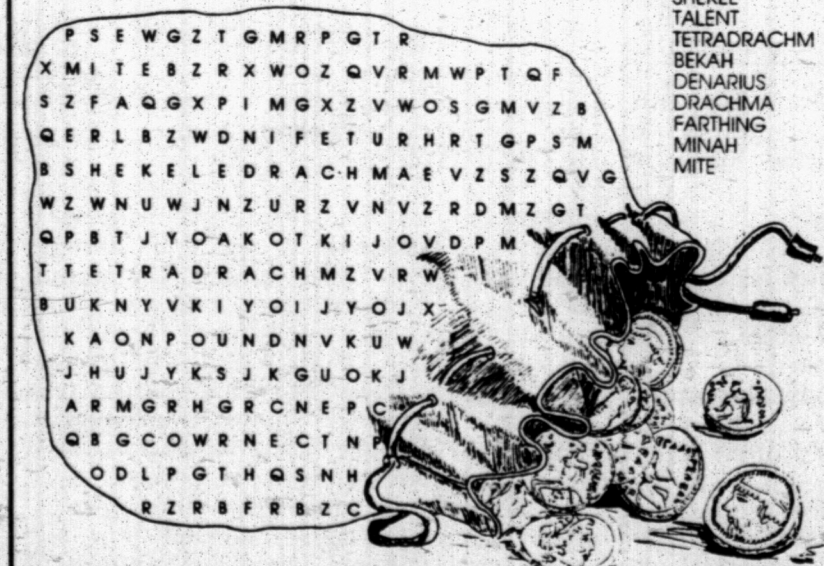
ZUXUBKJWMV JFZUU:  
SWSJUUV

Clue: N equals C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twelve Eight.

## \$FUNNY MONEY\$

In early Bible times, bartering was the most common form of trade. That means people just traded goods for other goods. However, because of the inconvenience of this, metals such as gold, silver, copper, and iron were made into coins. The "money" words listed here are from Bible times. Some of them are coins and some of them are units of weight. Find these words in the word-find puzzle.



Source: The Big Book of Bible Games and Puzzles by Joy MacKenzie & Shirley Bledsoe (Zondervan Publishing House, 1982), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

Dear Pen Pal Club,  
Hi! My name is Bethanny Trussell. I go to Grenada Elementary School. I am 9 years old and I am going into the fourth grade. I go to Cornerstone Baptist Church. My birthday is July 8. I like playing with my sister and my toys. Please write to: 421 Grenada Ave. Grenada, MS 38901

